

Testimony to Amend SB 993: AN ACT CONCERNING Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary

March 13, 2013

Dear Senator Gerrantana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Toni M. Parlanti; I am a licensed dental hygienist of 29 years living in Norwalk CT.

I oppose SB No. 993 - as it is written and would like to see the dental auxiliary, (EFDA) language edited to be more precise. I would also like to see an amendment to add the ADHP, mid-level provider as found in the HB 5541 from the 2012 session. That bill as you know, resulted in a tie - 14 -14 vote.

I work currently as a Public Health Hygienist for the City of Stamford. It wasn't until I accepted this position that I truly understand and deal with, first hand, a population with limited access to care. Unfortunately, this population has grown considerably due to the status of our economy.

The time has come to create a mid-level provider. The ADHP (Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner), can play a key role as a member of the comprehensive health care team. Just as the APRN (Nurse Practitioner) has answered the need for cost-efficiency and easy accessibility, the ADHP will help overcome many barriers to dental care, including: Financial, Transportation, Special Needs and Education.

I thank you for reading my testimony with the anticipation that you will support these changes. I am a health care advocate. Today, I advocate for the many families who will benefit from this much needed mid-level practitioner.

Sincerely,

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